

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 and 13-28 are pending in the present application, of which claims 2-9, 13-21 and 28 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claim 27 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005.

Examiner Interview

The courtesies extended by Examiner Jerabek and Supervisory Patent Examiner Ometz to Applicants' representative, Thomas Brown, during the March 22, 2006 personal interview are gratefully appreciated. The substance of such interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication on page 5 of the Action that claim 25 has been allowed.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejection:

claims 1, 23, 24, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,958) in view of Hatano (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0133035).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

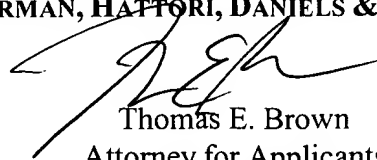
It is respectfully submitted that during said personal interview Examiner Jerabek suggested amending claim 1 into include the features of claim 27 in order to overcome the teachings of the Hatano reference. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to include the features of claim 27. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 23, 24 and 26 are now allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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